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BOOK The Tormenting Story

THE U-2 AFFAIR. By David Wise and Thomas B. Ross. Random House. \$4.95.

By Theodore H. White

In "The U-2 Affair," a truly remarkable performance in the reportorial art, Thomas B. Ross and David Wise have delivered us not only a thrilling story of espionage and adventure, but a study in American politics of major significance.

For here, detail by tormenting detail, these two extraordinary young reporters have traced the drama of America's

aerial espionage from the orange-red flare that brought Francis Gary Powers down over Russia on the morning of May 1, 1960, to the ultimate moral perplexities of this age when techniques challenge conscience, and both challenge the supreme political responsibility of

THE BOOK begins with

the reality of the postwar

world—the fact that for

years American policy mak-

ers had permitted, without

serious debate, photographic

missions by our planes

over the borders of the

Soviet Union, an American

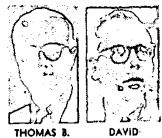
illegality balanced, in our

conscience, by the persistent

illegality of Communist espi-

onage in the United States.

government.



ROSS WISE

THE AUTHORS

Thomas B. Ross, 32, is a member of the Sun-Timos Washington Bureau and winner of the 1961 Murshall Field Award which cited a sequence of exclusive stories by Rose disclosing controversies in the Pentagon. David Wise, 32, is White Hetrse correspondent for the New York Harald Tritone.

respondent for this York Herald Tritume.

By 1955, however, the practice of such flights of sporadic opportunity was elevated to high national policy with the construction by Lockheed Aircraft engineers of their special recomminduces. 2 for overflight of the Eurasian land mass. And, with the first success of U-2 flights in 1956, a program of explexity began that continued with such staggering success and result that, by 1960, American policy makers had all tut lost any genuine control or political guidance of the instrucent.

Much of this technical story is already well known, although neveral fare sold in such detail as Ross and Wise have unexpected, nor with such vivid human vignettes of the tingle real and description of the essentially simple human regalific tewers, who were the thing of the operation.

Of The U-2

WHAT GIVES THE BOOK dimension, however, is the way the authors lift their story from the narrative of flight, chase, and hardware of espionage to the level of politics. Their chapter on the grotesque confusion in Washington in the first week of May, 1960, when our government waffled, fumbled, then humiliated itself in deceit, leads directly to the chaos of the weeks preceding the summit conference of that month; to the incredible implied threat of our leaders that we could continue overflights of the Soviet Union, thus dooming the conference in advance; to the jitteriness of the men who held the levers of government—the offer of Allen Dulles of CIA to resign his post, the panic 10-hour emergency

alert called by Secretary of Defense Thomas Gates from Paris, the breakdown of communication emong State, White House, CIA and NASA; to the final, brilliantly told story of the summit conference in Paris where Khrushchev, with peasant violence, pushed his good thing too far (all he wanted was his pound of public apology) and combined Russian stupidity with American stupidity to wreck the fairest hope in years of bringing peace near.

³ C ic is reminded constantly in reading this book of the

THE REVIEWER

Theodore H. White, journalist, editor and novelist, is one of the great reporters of his time. His five books have all been national best sellers. The most recent one, "The H. WHITE Making of the President 1960," is in its eighth printing and was recently awarded a Pulitzer Prize. White is currently engaged in adapting it as a television documentary cerias.